GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4140
ANSWERED ON:23.03.2001
PRESS COUNCIL OF INDIA
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has received requests from All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation, New Delhi for closing down the Press Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of complaints received by the Government regarding irregularities and misuse of funds in Press Council of India during the year 1999 and 2000;

(d) the action taken thereon and the outcome thereof; and

(e) the number of members/representative submitted their resignations from Press Council of India duringthe said period and grounds on which the resignations were submitted?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) & (b): All India Small & Medium Newspapers Federation, New Delhi has demanded closing down of PressCouncil of India as there is a move by Government to close down many other units of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting. Press Council of India being a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament cannot be closed down like other units of this Ministry.

(c) & (d): No specific complaint regarding irregularities and alleged misuse of funds in Press Council of Indiahas been received by the Government.

(e) Three members submitted their resignations from Press Council of India during 1999 and 2000, one onaccount of being held guilty of transgression of Press Council`s Code of Ethics for published writings,the other owing to alleged lack of respect to the members of the Press Council and the last one on account of personal problems.